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Mayor
CRAIG B. JOHNSON

Village Clerk
ANN I. WALSH

Village Manager
GARY E. PARRIN

MP04-321

Village Trustees
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October 12, 2004

ORIGINAL

Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I would like to take an opportunity to express my concerns regarding proposed changes to the Emergency Alert System (EB Docket No. 04-296).

In the event of an emergency, we need the ability to contact our constituency as quickly and effectively as possible. One of our most important means of communicating to the community is through our local emergency alert system provided by Comcast, our local cable provider. Through our cable franchise agreement, we are allowed to directly contact the community without going through a third party.

We are very concerned that the current rulemaking on emergency alert systems does not acknowledge the local cable emergency alert systems. Most importantly, the current rulemaking seems to actually pre-empt the local cable emergency alert systems.

We believe that the FCC does not have the authority to pre-empt local cable emergency alert systems which is a requirement in our cable franchise agreement. Furthermore, the U.S. Congress never authorized the FCC to pre-empt cable emergency alert systems.

We are concerned that the proposed Federally governed national alert system does not take into account our need to have effective and immediate means for alerts targeted to our community. Local municipalities are closest to the people. We are first responders and first alerters. Please allow us to maintain local control over a homeland security feature.

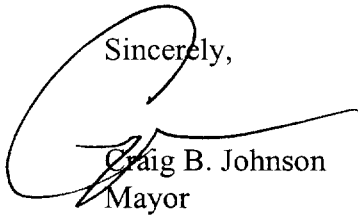
If you do decide to move forward and create a Federally governed national alert system, please ensure that it provides for participation by municipalities, thus allowing us to send direct notices targeted to our residents in the event of a local emergency.

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Thank you for taking the time to hear our concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Craig B. Johnson", written over the printed name and title.

Craig B. Johnson
Mayor

c: Senator Durbin
Senator Fitzgerald
Congressman Hyde
Congressman Crane
Executive Director, Northwest Central Dispatch Service